

**From:** ---  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 9:38pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello -

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on the proposed antitrust settlement against Microsoft Corporation.

I sincerely believe that Microsoft has a long and demonstrated history of un-ethical behavior towards its competitors, its business partners, and the general public. To try and stop some of the most egregious of these behaviors, I would recommend:

- 1) That Microsoft be split into 3 separate companies:
  - A) Operating Systems
  - B) End-User Applications (Microsoft Office, Money, TripMaker, games, etc.....)
  - C) Development Tools (Computer languages, databases, etc...)

Each company should be a separate and distinct entity, with separate management, board of directors, etc. All interface information ( API -- Application Program Interface ) shall be made public to all software development companies. In other words, there shall be no "hidden" or "undocumented" functions or features which allow one Microsoft company an unfair advantage over any other competitor, due to intimate knowledge of the workings of another Microsoft company's products, which other companies do not have access to.

2) Bill Gates, Paul Allen, Steve Balmer, and other current top-level management should be transferred to the Development tools company. They can own stock in the other two companies, but should be prohibited from ANY other activities in the other two companies for a period of at least 10 years.

3) All Microsoft contracts and agreements which require the second party to either: install Microsoft software products on each and every machine that the second party is providing, or which prohibit the second party from installing Microsoft's competitor's software products on the machines, or any similar contracts which require the use of Microsoft products, should be ordered null and void.

4) Microsoft has a long history of stealing other company's intellectual property (Stack Electronics is a prominent example), of predatory pricing (selling at a loss, or even "bundling for free") to drive other competitors from the market (too many companies and products to list), of playing "dirty tricks" to "break" a competitor's product and keep it from running (Caldera won a lawsuit against Microsoft), and on and on and on. I think that the individual lawsuit judgements were too small, because each one was considered separately, instead of being seen as part of a systematic

pattern of abuses. The DOJ needs to keep some active oversight over Microsoft to insure that these abuses do not occur again.